

Applic. No.: 10/689,419
Amdt. Dated July 29, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 9, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-25, 27-29, and 31-33 are now in the application. Claims 1, 3, 12-14, 16, 25, 27, 29, and 31-32 have been amended. Claims 2, 15, 26, and 30 have been cancelled. Claim 33 has been added.

In item 6 on pages 4-5 of the above-identified Office action, claims 13-14 have been objected to because of informalities. Appropriate correction has been made. The support for the amendment to claim 13 may be found on page 16, line 19 to page 17, line 2 of the specification.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 25 and 29 have been rejected as being anticipated by Nguyen et al. (US 6,446,164 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In item 4 on pages 3-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 8-12, 20-25, and 29 have been rejected as being anticipated by Gillenwater et al. (US 5,546,406) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

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The rejection has been noted and claims 1, 12, 25, and 29 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

More specifically, the features of claim 2, 15, 26, and 30 have been added to claims 1, 12, 25, and 29, respectively. Since claims 2, 15, 26, and 30 contain allowable subject matter as indicated in item 5 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 1, 12, 25, and 29 are now believed to be allowable. Since claims 8-11 and 20-24 are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 12, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's statement in item 5 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 2-7, 15-19, 26-28, and 30-32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The features of claims 2, 15, 26, and 30 have been added to claims 1, 12, 25, and 29, respectively. Since claims 3-7, 16-19, 27-28, and 31-32 are dependent on allowable claims 1, 12, 25, and 29, respectively, they are believed to be allowable in dependent form.

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A new claim 33 has been added. The support for claim 33 may be found on page 17, lines 1-2 of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-14, 16-25, 27-29, and 31-33 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

Yonghong Chen
Reg. No. 56,150


For Applicant

YC

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101